

# IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!

See our District 1 Tournament Tab in this issue!



## THE Hickman County GAZETTE

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75¢

## Presentations heard in long fiscal court meeting

Daniel Richardson

The Hickman County Fiscal Court met Thursday evening for more than three hours as they worked through a lengthy agenda in the full meeting room at the judge/executive's office.

After routine items such as

the approval of the minutes from meetings on January 5 and January 8, and the approval of the monthly and quarterly financial reports, the meeting transitioned into a series of presentations on economic development, feral hog control, and community recycling.

**Economic Development**  
HCEDA, Inc.

Former Hickman County Judge/Executive and current director of Hickman County Economic Development Authority, Inc. Greg Pruitt kicked off a three-tiered presentation on economic development.

Pruitt gave a brief history of HCEDA since its founding and explained that it had never had an executive director. He explained how the board of directors decided to contract with him for management services on a part-time basis, and how they arrived at his \$2,000 per month salary.

"The lowest paid economic development director that any of us could think of makes \$65,000 per year," he said. "We rounded that down to \$60,000 and divided it by five days in a week." He went on to explain that

SEE **PRESENTATIONS**, PAGE 2



A salt/plow truck and front end loader slid off Highway 58 about two miles west of Fulgham Monday.

## Snow covers county, region

Many Hickman Countians chose wisely to stay in their homes Monday as they woke up to several inches of snow, with several more inches yet to fall.

Parts of Hickman County received six to 12 inches of snow, according to the Kentucky Weather Center, and road crews worked throughout the day to move snow and ice off local roads. Conditions are still dangerous, and residents are urged to refrain from unnecessary travel. Even a plow truck and a front end loader ended up in a ditch west of Fulgham on Highway 58.

Children and many adults enjoyed a day off of work and school as they played in the snow, which isn't great for packing but can still be thrown around for some fun.

The Kentucky State Police warns residents to be cautious of the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning and hypothermia, both of which are a higher threat in colder weather.

**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement or garage or near a window.

- Don't run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.

- Don't burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't properly vented.

- Don't heat your house with a gas oven.

- Seek prompt medical attention by calling 911 or the Kentucky Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, have a headache, chest pain or are feeling nauseous.

- To install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall for daylight savings time. If the detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has carbon monoxide materials available in 17 languages at: <http://www.cdc.gov/co/guidelines.htm>.

**Hypothermia**

- Hypothermia can result when the body's temperature drops below what is necessary to maintain normal bodily functions. In severe cases or when the body is not warmed properly, death can result.

- To prevent hypothermia, wear appropriate clothing and limit the time you spend outdoors. Layer clothes made of synthetic and wool fabrics, which are best for keeping warm. Remember to wear hats, coats, scarves and gloves.

- Symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, altered speech pattern, abnormally slow rate of breathing, cold pale skin and lethargy. Seek medical attention if you experience signs of hypothermia. Individuals experiencing these symptoms should call 911 or seek medical attention immediately.

## March Mania to take shoppers through region

Boutique Shoppes featuring new ladies and/or children's apparel has a Contest for qualifying participants giving away up to \$1,000 in prizes and gift certificates. A free STAMPCARD and guidelines are available at the thirteen participating Boutiques or downloaded at either [KyGreatRiverRoad.org/MarchMania](http://KyGreatRiverRoad.org/MarchMania) or the Facebook Event page of the "Ky Great River Road".

It's a run for your money without spending a dime on the 1st Annual March Mania Boutique Trail Contest!

Join us on the trail anywhere from Fulton, Clinton, Bardwell, Cunningham, Wickliffe, and LaCenter, KY, featuring the 13 participating Shoppes. With your STAMPCARD in hand travel at leisure to obtain EACH location's unique store STAMP on your STAMPCARD! While there is no purchase necessary you can take advantage of the huge savings and in-store drawings being offered during March Mania in the Ky Great River Road National Scenic Byway.

"Promoting the KY Great River Road Region is our number one priority", said Norma Pruitt, Executive Director of KYGRRO. When she approached the Boutiques in the

4-county river region, she said, there was an "overwhelming positive response with many shoppe owners." The 1st Annual March Mania Boutique Trail will begin March 7th and end on March 28th. Shoppers will turn in the fully stamped card at the last Boutique visited or mail the STAMPCARD to KYGRRO, POBox 275, Clinton, KY 42031

Participating Shoppes: The Leader Store, Ivy Depot, LB's Boutique, Bella's Boutique, The Woods, Rusted Roots, The Stuff Store, Pixie Chiks, Princess TuTus, KD Couture, Cindy's Flower's & Gifts, From Me to You and Sister's & Friends.

On April 1, 2015, two lucky WINNERS will be drawn to receive in-store gift certificates just for visiting the participating Boutiques in the Ky Great River Road Region. The 1st place winner will receive \$550 and the 2nd place winner will receive \$200 in-store gift certificates, including a Ky Great River Road Trail t-shirt for each winner.

Join us for this ladies shopping excursion, MARCH 7th through MARCH 28th, across the 4-river counties of Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman & Fulton.

## Fiscal Court disregards counter sales

Only mailed subscriptions considered for in-county circulation

After receiving advice from Hickman County Attorney Jason Batts, the fiscal court voted unanimously to begin placing their legally required advertisements in The Hickman County Times. Batts advised the magistrates to ignore any newspapers sold by any other means than mailed subscriptions.

On the October 1 Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation, the Hickman County Times had higher reported mailed in-county subscriptions than The Hickman County Gazette, while the Gazette had more overall sales in Hickman County, when sales from counters and newsstands were considered.

Batts released a written opinion in which he stated both newspapers have said that rack sales, or single copy sales

are harder to determine accurately and in some places where newspapers are sold records are kept, and in some they are not.

Hickman County Gazette editor Daniel Richardson addressed the fiscal court and clarified that he had never agreed that rack sales are difficult to determine accurately, and that there are no places where copies of the Hickman County Gazette are sold that records are not kept.

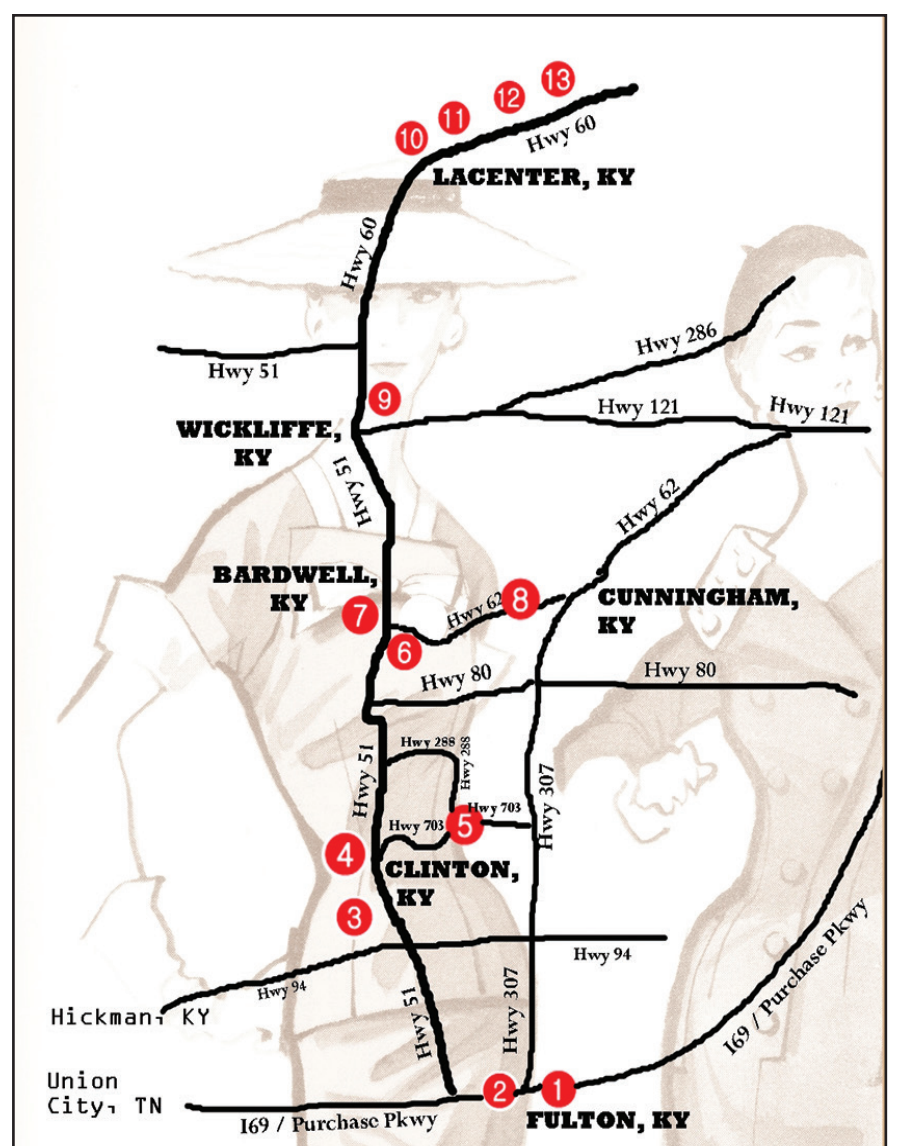
Clinton Mayor Phyllis Campbell was present at the meeting and asked about the newspapers that are sold at Greg's Supermarket. She said that when someone buys a copy of the Hickman County Times, their receipt reads "Gazette," leading her to assume that every newspaper that sold at Greg's,

whether Gazette or Times, counted towards the Gazette's sales.

Richardson said that newspaper sales are determined by how many newspapers are left at the end of the week, subtracted from the number of copies left on the rack originally, and that he assumes that Greg's uses the barcode for internal purposes.

Another point in Batts' written opinion was that newspapers sold off counters could be sold to residents from other counties who are only passing through Hickman County. Richardson asked if there was anyone present who really thought that was the case, and if so, enough to matter. Campbell said that she thought that

SEE **COUNTER SALES**, PAGE 2



**BOUTIQUE TRAIL** - Locations along the Boutique Trail are (1) The Leader Store, (2) The Ivy Depot, (3) LB's Boutique, (4) Bella's Boutique, (5) The Woods, (6) The Stuff Store, (7) The Stuff Store, (8) Pixie Chicks, (9) Princess Tutus, (10) Cindy's Flowers, (11) KD Couture, (12) From Me To You, (13) Sister's and Friends.

*We want to hear from you!*

If you have a question, comment, or complaint about something you saw in *The Hickman County Gazette*, or a suggestion, we'd love to hear from you!

270.653.3381

[gazette3322@bellsouth.net](mailto:gazette3322@bellsouth.net)

**Obituaries**, pg 4

Harold Jones  
Michele Cobb  
Lorene Floyd  
Norene Lewis  
Mary Lee Roberts

See full obituaries on page 4.

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# CONTINUED/News

## Judge Langford participates in 2015 Circuit Judges College in Louisville

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 10, 2015 – Circuit Court Judge Timothy A. Langford, who serves Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton and Hickman counties, participated in the 2015 Circuit Judges Winter College that took place Jan. 25-28 in Louisville. The Administrative Office of the Courts provided the education program for the state’s circuit judges.

The judges attended courses on domestic violence, science and the law, computer forensics in court, alternative ways to resolve disputes in cases, personal jurisdiction, judicial writing for trial judges, evolving areas of law and recently published cases, and court technology, including eFiling. With eFiling, attorneys can file cases electronically. The program is now available in 26 Kentucky counties and will be in every county in the state by the end of 2015.

“eFiling is going to cut down on the time and money it takes to get to a courthouse to file case documents and attorneys can log on anytime of the day or night,” said Jefferson Family Court Judge Stephen M. George, president of the Kentucky Circuit Judges Association. “With clicks of a mouse, attorneys will be able to more efficiently access justice

for the people they represent.

“Also, this college was the first for our new circuit judges who took office Jan. 5, so it was a perfect time to welcome them and for the new judges and more experienced judges to discuss a variety of judicial topics.”

In addition to general sessions, the college offered separate courses for circuit judges with general jurisdiction and those who oversee Family Court cases.

Circuit judges with general jurisdiction had the opportunity to attend courses on scientific evidence and expert testimony, juror selection, property boundary cases, probation and pretrial discovery. They attended sessions about the admissibility of electronically information in cases and the rights of defendants who are indigent to get state funds for experts for their defense.

Family Court judges attended a session about Kentucky’s new juvenile code under Senate Bill 200, the juvenile justice reform legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2014. Other courses specifically for Family Court judges focused on self-represented litigants, child custody cases, and trends in dependency, neglect and abuse cases. The DNA session also

covered what judges can do to address child fatalities and near fatalities in Kentucky.

The AOC Division of Judicial Branch Education worked with the Education Committees of the Kentucky Circuit Judges Association to provide the college. The college included 20.75 hours of continuing education credit for the circuit judges.

Circuit Court is the court of general jurisdiction that hears civil matters involving more than \$5,000, capital offenses and felonies, divorces, adoptions, termination of parental rights, land dispute title cases and contested probate cases.

Family Court is a division of Circuit Court. In counties that have a Family Court, the court has primary jurisdiction in cases involving family issues, including divorces, adoption, child support, domestic violence and juvenile status offenses.

Administrative Office of the Courts

The AOC is the operations arm for the state court system and supports the activities of 3,300 court system employees and 403 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. As the fiscal agent for the state court system, the AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

## Counter sales

From Pg. 1

might happen during yard sale season, because people passing through might want to look at yard sale ads.

Based off of Batts’ advice, the fiscal court decided to place their ads in the Hickman County Times.

This decision is in contrast with what Kentucky Press Association executive director David Thompson said is the

norm for legal advertisements in Kentucky and goes against KRS 424.120(1)(d).

According to KRS 424.210, this decision by the fiscal court has no bearing on the decisions of other public entities, and does not eliminate liability on the part of other entities that may fail to publish their legally required advertisements to the specifications laid out in KRS

424.

KRS 424.380 explains that any resolution, regulation, ordinance or other formal action of any public agency which is required to be published that is adopted without compliance with the publication requirements of KRS 424 shall be voidable by a court of competent jurisdiction.

## Presentations

From Pg. 1

he and the board had agreed on a salary of \$12,000 per year for one day per week of work. The board asked if he would be willing to work two days per week, and he agreed. \$24,000 per year is \$2,000 per month.

FCHCEDP  
Fulton County-Hickman County Economic Development Partnership (FCHCEDP) director Eddie Crittendon gave the second presentation, during which he briefed the fiscal court about developments in the partnership’s activities. Crittendon explained that the EDP board of directors is looking for a location to build a new spec building, and that they would like to build one in Hickman County. He said that there are companies looking to expand into rural counties, but they usually want a building that is move-in ready.

KYGRRO  
Norma Pruitt, executive director of Kentucky Great River Road Organization (KYGRRO), was the next to speak. She briefed the magistrates on the latest happenings with KYGRRO, including an upcoming boutique trail called March Mania. The trail will include 13 ladies’ boutiques located in all four river counties (Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle, and Ballard). Participants in the trail will have the opportunity to pick up a “stamp card” at any of the locations, and will have to have the card stamped by all 13 stores. The completed cards will then be submitted for a random drawing for prizes.

**Feral Hog Control**  
The next presentation was an update on the Feral Hog Control Project. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife officer Denny Broyles, USDA wildlife biologist Micah Wellman, Robert Johnson (who wrote the grant to fund the program), and Jeff Berryhill (who conducts the night shootings) gave the update. Broyles showed magistrates photos of some of the hogs that had been killed and their nests.  
“There are very few hogs left,” Berryhill explained. He

said that more than 800 feral hogs have been killed through the program, almost all in Hickman County, and that an estimated 20 hogs remain.

“We have to be very thorough,” he said. “If we leave one sow alive, it would only take a couple of years before we have a major problem.” Wellman explained that one sow can have up to 24 offspring in one year, through three litters.

Broyles gave a brief history of the region’s feral hog problem. While the exact origin of the issue is unknown, he said that the most widely accepted story is that in the 1990’s, in a dispute over hog barns, someone went to a hog sale, bought a trailer full of hogs, and let them out on a nature preserve.

“They were there for 10 years before anyone knew anything about them,” Broyles explained. He said that they eventually had populated the entire nature preserve and began to expand out onto private property around 2007.

Without an effective control project, the hog population continued to grow, causing considerable damage to farming operations. In the summer of 2011, Broyles and Darian Irvan, who was at the time serving as Hickman County’s Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent for the UK Extension Office, began working on a plan to reduce the hog population.

Johnson put the grant together and the project began in early 2012. Wellman explained that aerial shootings had been conducted via helicopters, but were largely ineffective due to the tall canopy and heavy undergrowth. Helicopters have to maintain a clearance above the trees that creates more distance between the shooters and the targets, and heavy undergrowth provides places for the hogs to hide. He explained that aerial shootings are popular in Texas, where there is no canopy to stay above and helicopters can hover low above the hogs, letting the wind cause them to run out into the open.

The bulk of the killings have been accomplished through Berryhill’s night hunts. He uses thermal optics that allow him to

see even a field mouse scurrying across the ground at night. He uses a high-powered rifle with night optics, and has killed the bulk of the hog population.

**Community Recycling**  
Cherry Pyron and Henry Brazzell gave a presentation on Community Recycling, a local effort to facilitate recycling in Hickman County. Pyron and Brazzell informed the fiscal court that participation in the program has increased since its beginning in 2009, and participants are very thankful for the opportunity to recycle. While the program began at the Clinton First United Methodist Church, collections are now held on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Hickman County Road Barn.

“People are always thanking us for doing this,” Pyron said, “but I’m so thankful for their desire to recycle.”

Pyron and Brazzell both mentioned that while they love providing the opportunity for community members to recycle, they could use some help with volunteer labor. Pyron’s main concern was whether someone will be willing to see the program through after they are no longer able.

Recyclable items are collected at the County Road Barn on the fourth Saturday of each month and carried to area recycle centers.

In other business, the fiscal court voted to purchase two new police cruisers for the Hickman County Sheriff’s office, pass an electrical fees ordinance, and pass a resolution in support of road fund stabilization. Descriptions follow.

### Purchase of 2 new cruisers for sheriff’s office

The Hickman County Fiscal Court voted last Thursday night to purchase two 2015 model Dodge Chargers for use by the Hickman County Sheriff’s Office. The vehicles will be purchased at the state contract price of \$23,632.20 from Glenn’s Freedom Dodge Chrysler Jeep.

This action came after Hickman County Sheriff Mark



A Stateline map showing how states differ on vaccinations

## Hickman Co. vaccination rates higher than most

*At least 14 counties have vaccination rates below expert recommendation*

From Kentucky Health News

As concern about the spread of measles from lack of vaccination grows, many

Kentucky counties probably have vaccination rates below the minimum that experts say is needed to create “herd immunity” and prevent spread of the highly contagious disease among students in kindergarten.

In Hickman County, 59 of the county’s 60 students enrolled in kindergarten last year, or 98 percent, had been vaccinated. That percentage is much higher than in other counties.

At least 14 Kentucky counties had measles vaccination rates below 90 percent in the 2011-12 school year, according to state data analyzed by **USA Today**, in a survey of states that track vaccination rates and make them public. **The Courier-Journal** published the Kentucky figures in an online database.

The counties under 90 percent were Bath (89%), Boyle (83%), Bullitt (88%), Christian (89%), Harlan (88%), Jefferson (86%), Laurel (85%), Lawrence (88%), Lee (80%), Nelson (82%), Robertson (88%), Rowan (86%), Taylor (82%) and Webster (86%). Data from several counties was not available.

The statewide vaccination rate was 93 percent, pulled down by a rate of 86 percent in Jefferson County, the state’s most populous. The lowest rates were 80 percent in Lee County and 82 percent in Nelson and Taylor counties.

Jefferson County officials told The Courier-Journal that the county’s rate rose above 90 percent in the last two to three years. Bullitt County school-health coordinator Lesa Bodine told the Louisville newspaper that her data show 94.3 percent of the county’s kindergarten students “have been properly immunized,” The C-J’s Darla Carter reports. “However, she said there are some parents who choose not to immunize their children. She also noted that there can be a delay in receiving proof of vaccination because a child has, for example, transferred from another county or state.”

Like many states, Kentucky allows parents to exempt their children from required vaccinations for medical or religious reasons. Measles outbreaks in other states have been blamed at least partly on parents who still believe discredited reports that vaccines cause autism or other disorders. Generally, the stricter the laws, the higher the vaccination rate, **Stateline** reports.

*Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.*

## Basket workshop, crochet class coming to Extension Office

### Basket Workshop

Join us for a Basket Workshop taught by Kentucky Crafter: Karen O’Nan Martin, owner of Hillcrest Baskets and Greenhouse, on March 7 from 9:00-1:30 at the Hickman County Extension Office. The class fee is \$25, and participants must register and pay by February 20. Participants will create a traditional lunch basket. It will measure 8x8x12 inches tall with a wooden handle. Participants will have a few different color choices to weave in as accent in the basket. The price for the class is \$25.00 per person with an option of staining the basket a walnut color for an additional \$5 that day. Participants will receive a supply list once registered. For registration call 270-653-2231 by February 20. Class size is limited. Hosted by the Hickman County Extension Homemakers.

### Crochet Club

Crochet Club is a new special interest club for anyone interested in learning to crochet, wanting to brush up on needlework skills, or making new friends. They meet on the **2nd Saturday** of each month from 1:00-3:00 pm. The February meeting will be Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Hickman County Extension Office. Participants will need to bring any size crochet needle and yarn for a Valentine’s Day project, a crocheted heart. For more information contact the Hickman County Cooperative Extension Office, 270-653-2231.



EDITORIAL/NEWS

The great snow of 2015

We didn't get as much snow as was predicted ... with Monday's snowfall being forecast to be the most snow that we've seen since 2003.

We did get a lot of freezing rain which quickly turned to ice and was followed by some snow which created a big mess.

MY VIEW



DENNIS RICHARDSON

With banks, federal offices, and schools, being closed Monday for President's Day it really didn't feel as stifling as it could have. Some saw short electrical outages.

I remember in 2003 that we were all snowed in for what seemed like weeks, although it was probably less than a week. No traffic came down our road and the blanket of snow that covered the long driveway across the levee stayed there. It was difficult to even distinguish the drive from the grassy edges. Everything was a white blanket. A slip off either side of the drive would have been a nightmare with a pasture fence on the upper side and a long slope after that, and a drop off into the pond on the other.

Monday's forecast had me envisioning some of the big snows we had when I was a child, the kind that compacted easily for construction of tall snowmen and elaborate forts of snow. I grew up with three older brothers and our house sat on top of a pretty good hill. The most fun was finding ways to slide down the hill and the thoughts of snow cream in front of a warm wood-burning fireplace and hot chocolate to thaw us out afterward.

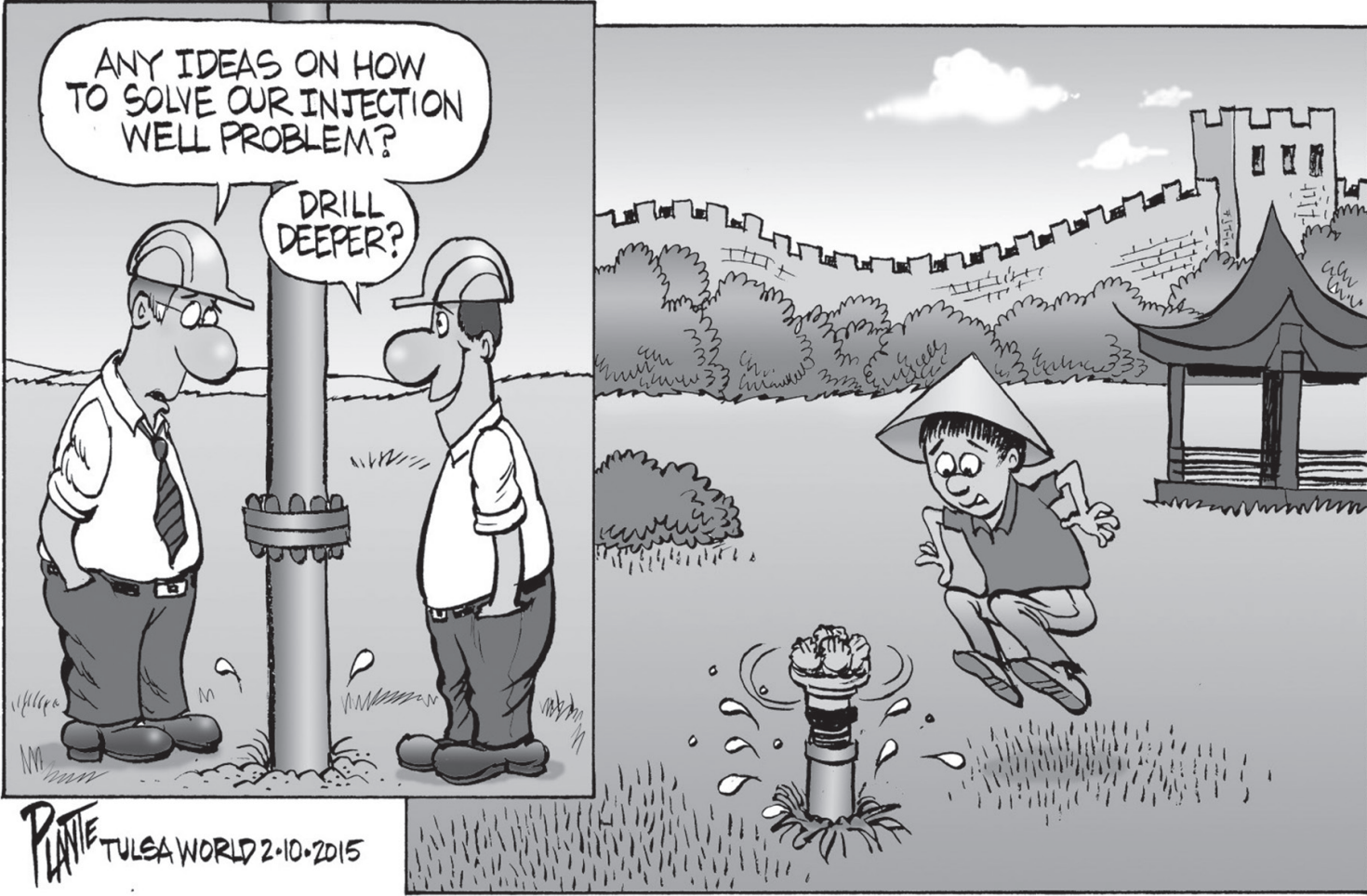
One day we took the hood off of a junk car and turned it upside down and made it into a sled. It was one of those hoods that curved down over the front of the car and when turned upside down made for a good barrier to hide behind in case the sled went off course and hit one of the hickory trees or would not stop as the entrance to the cow pasture below our drive. We could get in that thing on top of the hill and pick up some pretty good speed going down. Luckily we were able to stop our sled before it went under that fence into the pasture. On the other side of the fence, the hill continued down for about 50 yards at about a 60 degree angle, and there was a creek at the bottom. The bottom of that hill in a frozen creek is not where we wanted to be with the thought of the neighbor's old bull chasing us back up the hill.

Children get creative in the new snow and it is interesting to see what the young (and young at heart) find to do in it.

After all, when we don't get that much snow it is fun to make the most of it when it does come.

When it was all said and done this snow was a little crunchier than what makes for good snowballs and it made for slippery sidewalks and side streets.

With spring a little more than a month away a little snow and ice seems much more tolerable.



PLATIE TULSA WORLD 2-10-2015

It shouldn't take a year

Dear Dave,

I'm 30 and debt-free. Do you think I should stop making contributions to my 401(k) account for a year in order to save up an emergency fund?

Beth


Dear Beth,

Yes, I do. But it shouldn't take you a year to set aside an emergency fund if you're debt-free and making decent money at your job. Just make it part of your monthly budget plan, grit your teeth and do it!

I recommend that people put off or stop investing until

they are debt-free, except for their home, and have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses in place. In some cases, depending on how much debt they have, it could take three or four years to do all this. I know it seems like a long time, but it's really not in the grand scheme of things.

DAVE SAYS



DAVE RAMSEY

Here's the way I look at it. If you have no emergency fund, but you're contributing to your 401(k), there's a good

chance you'll end up cashing out your 401(k) if a large, unexpected expense comes along. When you cash out a 401(k) early, you get hit with a penalty plus your tax rate. That's not a good plan!

That's just one of the reasons I tell people to have an emergency fund in place before they start investing!

—Dave

A waste of money?

Dear Dave,

I have a question about home warranties. Are they a waste of money if you already have a fully-funded emergency fund, with six months of expenses or more set aside?

Andy

Dear Andy,

In my opinion, they're a waste of money even if you don't have that much set aside for emergencies. I recommend an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses to cover the unexpected things that life will throw at you. This amount of cash, sitting in a

good money market account with check writing privileges, will give you easy access in the event of a financial emergency.

I don't do extended warranties of any kind, Andy. They're not a good deal. You're better off to self-insure against things breaking down, and put what would have been profit and marketing dollars for the extended warranty company in your own pocket!

—Dave

*\*Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books, including More Than Enough. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8.5 million listeners each week on more than 550 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.*

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Thousands of Kentuckians face federal tax penalty for not having health insurance

"Thousands of Kentuckians might face a penalty this tax season for failing to sign up for health insurance during 2014," Mary Meehan reports for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

The state estimated that 340,000 Kentuckians would buy private insurance through its Kynect marketplace, but only 80,000 have done so. However, Meehan writes, some of those who did "might have qualified for Medicaid under the state's expanded income guidelines, said Carrie Banahan, who heads Kynect."

Jill Midkiff, spokesman for the state Cabinet for Health and

Family Services, told Meehan, "There are too many variables at play here to do simple arithmetic for estimated populations. It would be safe to say that thousands of Kentuckians will likely face a tax penalty this year for not obtaining health insurance."

Banahan said, "A lot of people are going to be very surprised." And that will include some people who were eligible for Medicaid, but didn't enroll in it. Medicaid enrollment is open year-round, but private-insurance enrollment closes Sunday, Feb. 15 and won't reopen until next fall unless someone has a life-

changing event "such as a birth, divorce or loss of a job," Meehan notes.

"The penalty for not having insurance during 2014 is \$95 for each person in a household or 1 percent of the household income, whichever is higher," Meehan notes. "The bill will come due when 2014 taxes are filed, she said. If a person is due a refund, it will be deducted from the tax refund." Next year, the penalty will be 2 percent, with a minimum of \$325 per adult or \$162.50 per child, under provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

TO

National Scenic Byway

Great River Road

→

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KyGreatRiverRoad.org

KYGRRO

Kentucky

AMERICA'S BYWAYS

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The Hickman County Gazette

PO Box 200, Clinton KY 42031-0200  
USPS 243-160  
270-653-3381

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\$32 - all others & out of state  
All inserts are supplements to The Hickman County Gazette.  
gazette3322@bellsouth.net



# Community News

## Area Obituaries

### Harold Jones



Harold Marshall Jones, 81, of Fulton, Ky. died at 5:35 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, 2015 at Baptist Health in Paducah. He was a member of Crutchfield Methodist Church and lifelong member of Harmony Methodist Church until it closed. He worked at Kentucky Department of Transportation as a Heavy Equipment Operator for 42 years. He was an Army veteran and help organized National Guard at Hickman in the late 50's and early 60's.

Surviving are two sons, Hal Marshall (Lynn Ann) Jones and William Todd Jones, both of Clinton; five granddaughters, Betsy Hopwood of Symsonia, Ky., Becky Morrow of Wingo, Ky., Kady Adams of Cayce, Ky., Eva Alicia Jones and Helena Marie Jones, both of Clinton, Ky.; and one grandson, Hanan Marshall Jones of Clinton.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy McAuliffe Jones; and one sister. His parents were Albert Marshall and Sara Frances Gore Jones Champion.

Services were at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at Brown Funeral Home in Clinton. Revs. James Allen Smith and Jim Wolfgang officiated, with burial in Harmony Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Harmony Preservation Grounds, c/o Hal Jones, 3279 State Route 780, Clinton KY 42031.

### Lorene Floyd

Lorene B. Floyd, 94, of Hammond, Ind., died Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.

She was a member of the Hessville Baptist Church and the Calumet Clowns, where she visited hospitalized children.

Surviving are her brothers-in-law, Mormon Floyd and Harold (Blanche) Floyd; sisters-in-law, Dorothea Bugg, Linda Jo Floyd and Emma Barclay; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lois Floyd; and one brother, Jesse Barclay. Her parents were Perry Barclay and Ina Johnson Barclay.

Services were at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4 at Fagen-Miller Funeral Home in Highland, with burial in Elmwood Cemetery in Hammond.

Memorials may be made to : Hessville Baptist Church, 6423 Arizona Ave., Hammond IN 46323.

### Mary Lee Roberts

Mary Lee Wayne Roberts, 103 of Clinton, Ky. died at 6:17 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 at Baptist Health of Paducah.

She was a member of Oakwood United Methodist Church and retired from the Columbus Post Office.

She is survived by her two sons, Gordon W. Roberts of Cadiz and Eddie Roberts of Clinton; four grandchildren, Carrie Shanklin of Nashville, Tenn., Laurie Wayne Wright of Austin, Texas, Melanie Roberts of Albuquerque, N.M. and Mariann Bouloy of Austin, Texas; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon E. Roberts; two brothers; and two sisters. Her parents were Harry and Virginia French Wayne.

Funeral Services were at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15 at Brown Funeral Home in Clinton. Rev. Stan Waldon officiated, with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Donations: Oakwood Cemetery, c/o Eddie Roberts, 2265 Hickman Road, Clinton, KY 42031.



### Michele Cobb

Michele Emiley Cobb, 50, of the Crutchfield community, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015 at her home.

She was a homemaker and had moved to this area from Chicago, Ill. 15 years ago.

Surviving are her husband, Robert Cobb, whom she married October 17, 2007; her father, John Roth of Bardwell, Ky.; her mother, Patricia Beecke of Iron Mountain, Mich.; two sons, Jeff Bryson and Keith Bryson, both of Chicago; one daughter, Kristen, Bryson of Chicago; one sister, Patricia Roth of Chicago; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13 at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Fulton.

### Norine Lewis

Norine Lewis, 84, of Columbus, Ky. died at 10:29 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015 at ICF Nursing Home in Clinton.

She was born March 29, 1930 in Columbus to the late James Perry Lewis and Mary Lee Watkins. She was a retired supervisor of a clothing manufacturing facility, former president of Columbus Homecoming Committee and member of St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church.

Surviving are four daughters, Wilma Renee Simmons, Lawanda Sue Griffin, Karen Denise Griffin and Toni Annette Griffin, all of Columbus; one son, Reginald (Debbie) Farmer of Eric, Penna.; three grandchildren, Robert Farmer, Reginald Farmer Jr. and Crystal Holloway; and several great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son, James Curtis Lewis; one sister, Edith Mae Buffington; and one brother, James Lewis.

Services were at 12 noon Friday, Feb. 13 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home in Arlington. Rev. Wendell D. Gray officiated, with burial in Columbus Cemetery.

### Masonic Lodge 131 pancake breakfast

Masonic Lodge 131 will be having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 6 a.m. - ???. All you can eat for \$5.00

### Emergency Planning Commission will meet February 17

Local Emergency Planning Commission will meet Tuesday, February 17 at 12:00 p.m. in the office of the Hickman County Judge Executive.

### Ash Wednesday Services will be Wednesday, February 18

You are invited to services on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015. A service at 7:00 a.m. will be provided for individuals before work and school. This service will be in the Young Center of First United Methodist Church. At 5:00 pm. a light supper will be served followed by a worship service at 6:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the foreheads or back of the hand of participants with the

words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

After Ash Wednesday you are invited to a six week journey of being open to God. During the Sunday in Lent, a six week sermon series will explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus. They teach us not only about God, but also about us. Join us as we try to get more in touch with our longings and needs and what ultimately fills these.

Come and join us for these opportunities of worship. We would be honored to have you

### Little League registration

Sign-ups are underway for the little league registration until Feb. 22. Forms were sent home from school and are also available at Clinton Bank and First Community Bank, each location will also accept completed forms as well as registration fees. On February 7, 14 and 21 forms can be dropped off in the lobby of the Elementary

school from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Anyone with questions may call Stefanie Hoff at 270-254-6801 or Mike Spillman at 270-627-1771.

A meeting is scheduled for February 10 from 6-8 in the Young Center for coaches and any parent wanting to play an active role in the league.

### Social Security 1099s in an instant

Getting ready to prepare your income tax returns can be a hassle, especially for those of us who haven't been diligent in holding on to our records. Seniors who misplace their SSA 1099 forms have the extra aggravation of having to call and/or visit their local Social Security office to get replacements, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens.

But, now all you have to do is use the Internet to open a free mySocialSecurity account and

access your 1099s electronically. You can view and print them in an instant.

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, says: "beginning this tax season, any mySocialSecurity account holder who misplaces their original SSA-1099 will be able to request an instant replacement from our menu of online services. Setting up a mySocialSecurity account is quick, easy, and secure; plus it's a great way to do business with Social Security."

### The Chuckwagon Gang will be at Union Ridge Baptist Church

The Chuckwagon Gang will be in concert at the Union Ridge Baptist Church Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m.

The church is located at 1014

Union Ridge Road, Benton, Ky. in the Aurora area.

A love offering will be taken. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 270-489-2244.

### Hickman County BOE will meet February 19

The Hickman County Board of Education will meet in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2015, in the Board of Education office located at 416 Waterfield Drive, Clinton, KY, to transact routine business and for a student disciplinary review.

### ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION

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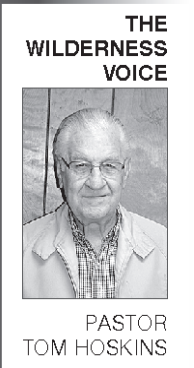
## LIMBO

LIMBO. Been thinking about locations. The back line of my property is also the city limit.

So I am not an urbanite (citydweller, Webster), though I am accessed to city water and sewerage. On the other hand, I cannot say I live in the country due to the above amenities, plus the houses near me are only a hundred feet apart. I hardly qualify as an urbanite or a country bumpkin, a rustic,

simple uncomplicated person, though I rather prefer the latter. When it comes to spirituality, many folk seem, if it were possible, to fall into a position of religious limbo. They will not confess to being a true disciple of Jesus, nor to being utterly lost, but somewhere in that afore mentioned condition of betwixt and between. But in reality there is no such position. You either are, or you aren't, when it comes to Christ.

Dear soul, "Make your calling and election sure" (2Peter 1:10). You are either for Christ or against him. You are either in or out. Let a man examine himself whether he be in the faith (2Corinthians 13:5).



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ADAM H. EDELEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Lori H. Flanery, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive

Honorable Mark Green, Hickman County Sheriff

Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the Hickman County Sheriff's Settlement - 2013 Taxes for the period April 16, 2013 through April 15, 2014 - regulatory basis, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the County Sheriff, as of April 15, 2014, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period April 16, 2013 through April 15, 2014 of the Hickman County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated August 13, 2014 on our consideration of the Hickman County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hickman County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

2013-01 The Hickman County Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

Adam H. Edelen

Auditor of Public Accounts

August 13, 2014

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at www.auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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NEWS/FINANCE

Gov. Beshear declares statewide emergency

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 16, 2015) – In response to heavy snows and bitter cold across the Commonwealth in the past 12 hours, Gov. Steve Beshear declared a statewide emergency to allow local officials immediate access to state resources to assist in public safety and recovery efforts.

“This storm system is still dumping snow across much of the state and temperatures are forecast to drop further. Some areas may see accumulation of up to 16 inches, making it one of the worst storms in recent memory,” said Gov. Beshear. “By declaring a state of emergency now for the entire state, we can deploy any needed state assistance, including National Guard troops if necessary, without delay.”

Gov. Beshear and state officials remind drivers that it is extremely important to avoid travel if possible so road crews can salt and plow interstates and major highways. He again encouraged citizens to check on elderly neighbors.

So far, the snow has been dry and powdery; this has limited accumulation on power lines and tree limbs. That’s good news, as that likely means little impact on power lines for this storm.

The Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center (CEOC), located in Frankfort, remains activated with additional staffing from Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM), KYNG, state cabinets and volunteer organizations monitoring the situation, fielding calls and responding to requests for assistance.

Weather safety tips can be found on the Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) website at [www.kyem.ky.gov](http://www.kyem.ky.gov)

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Edelen Releases Audit of Hickman County Sheriff’s Tax Settlement

State Auditor Adam Edelen today released the audit of the sheriff’s settlement – 2013 taxes for Hickman County Sheriff Mark Green. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff’s reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff’s tax account and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Recent changes in auditing standards require the auditor’s letter to communicate whether the sheriff’s settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited and paid of the Hickman County Sheriff in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

The sheriff’s settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor’s opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff’s settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky.

The audit found that the sheriff’s financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited and paid, for the period, April 16, 2013 through April 15, 2014 in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting. As part of the audit process, the auditor must

comment on non-compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comment:

The Hickman County Sheriff’s office lacks adequate segregation of duties.

The Hickman County Sheriff’s office has a lack of adequate segregation of duties. Due to a limited number of staff and the diversity of operations, the bookkeeper is required to perform multiple tasks such as the collection of cash from customers, deposit preparation, bookkeeping, bank reconciliations, the preparation of monthly reports, and the preparation of checks for disbursement.

A lack of segregation of duties or strong oversight increases the risk that fraud or errors could occur and not be detected. This condition is the result of a limited budget, which restricts the number of employees the Sheriff can hire or delegate duties to.

A proper segregation of duties over the accounting and reporting functions or the implementation of compensating controls, when necessary because of a limited number of staff, is essential for providing protection from fraud or errors occurring and not being

detected. Additionally, a proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

As a result, we recommend the Sheriff separate the duties of receiving taxes from customers, preparing deposits, preparing monthly bank reconciliations, and preparing monthly reports. If, due to a limited budget, this is not feasible, cross-checking procedures could be implemented by the Sheriff. These procedures should be documented on the records that are examined.

Sheriff’s response: The Sheriff did not respond.

The sheriff’s responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice.

The sheriff’s office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the auditor’s website: [http://apps.auditor.ky.gov/Public/Audit\\_Reports/Archive/2013HickmanSTSaud](http://apps.auditor.ky.gov/Public/Audit_Reports/Archive/2013HickmanSTSaud) it.pdf.

*The Auditor of Public Accounts ensures that public resources are protected, accurately valued, properly accounted for, and effectively employed to raise the quality of life of Kentuckians.*

How Do Real People Overcome Challenges to Save for Retirement?

We’ve heard a lot about how far behind Americans are in saving for retirement, but we don’t often hear many solutions that the average family can actually afford. That’s how we landed on a \$300 a month figure. It’s a challenging number, since few of us can find an extra \$300 a month without some effort and sacrifice. But it’s doable, and it’s enough to make a real difference in your nest egg by retirement.

like a huge chunk of cash, especially if your budget is so tight it squeaks.

When Katie quit work to stay home with her kids, her family in Mason City, Ill., had to learn to live on just one income. After such a drastic cut, they had to face the fact that they could not afford to put away 15 percent of her husband’s income for retirement. But they didn’t stop investing just because they couldn’t reach the 15 percent goal.

1. Deal With Realities, and Control Your Emotions

A lot of folks are debating whether or not they’ll ever be able to squeeze anything out of their budgets for retirement savings. We get it. One of the main reasons people hesitate to save for retirement is that they’re focused on meeting day-to-day obligations.

“We were just doing as much as we could,” Katie explained. “However, each month we were able to tweak the budget a little more — stuff like changing his W-4 and our cell phone package. Now, we can afford 15 percent for retirement, contribute to college funds and increase our fun money!”

Christina is a mom of five kids in Alexandria, Va. Two of her children have special needs, so she knows what it’s like to be wary of “spending” money on retirement savings. “It’s been hard to save for retirement, because I always feel like I need to have more money in the bank since we don’t know what’s coming with the kids,” she said.

“But I know that if we don’t save now, we won’t be able to take care of ourselves in the future, let alone them, if they need it,” Christina added. So she and her husband have made retirement savings their priority. They’re debt-free, have an emergency fund and watch expenses like a hawk. They’ve also come to the tough, but correct, decision to save for their retirement instead of building up a college fund for their children.

“We feel that the best gift we can give our children is a strong work ethic, good money sense and not having to care for us when we get old,” she said.

Judy from Spring Branch, Texas, started her retirement savings plan nearly 20 years ago by contributing just three percent of her salary. Then, each year she received a bonus, she diverted most of it to her 401(k), and every time she received a raise she put a third of that into her 401(k), as well.

“It did not take long to max out my 401(k),” Judy said. “At age 51, my husband and I have two kids in college with the costs completely funded. We are at the point of severe wealth building, and our giving has increased significantly. It’s a great feeling to know that I could retire at age 60 if I choose.”

2. Refine Your Budget and Work Toward Your Goal Over Time

Making up your mind to put retirement savings at the top of your to-do list is just the first step. Now you actually have to find the money. Dave Ramsey, along with many retirement experts, recommends you invest 15 percent of your income just for retirement. That can sound

3. Let Go of Past Regrets

This is where a lot of people get stuck. They see saving for retirement as a mountain that’s too large to climb after a certain point in their lives. They give up before they even begin.

If you’re overwhelmed by the prospect of building a nest egg at the eleventh hour, go back to the first step and separate your realities from your emotions. One of the best ways to do that is to get all the facts. Where do you really stand now, and where could you be if you started saving with gazelle intensity?

*\*Used with permission from Ramsey Solutions. For more information, visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com).*

KSP cautions motorists

The Kentucky State Police (KSP) is cautioning motorists about the winter storm that entered the state Sunday night. A mix of freezing temperatures and snow have made traveling conditions very difficult over the next 24 hours. Citizens are asked to refrain from contacting local posts about current road conditions. Instead they should call 1-866-737-3767 (#511 from cellular phone) or utilize [www.511.ky.gov](http://www.511.ky.gov).

KSP is requesting travelers to observe for potentially stranded motorists. If you see or suspect that someone is stranded, please call 911 or contact the Kentucky State Police at 1-800-222-5555.

With the threat of an upcoming winter storm and cold temperatures, there is a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from improper use of alternative heating sources to heat homes. Also, the risk of hypothermia is high from individuals not properly dressed for cold temperatures. Fact sheets on winter safety are available at <http://healthalerts.ky.gov/Pages/WinterSafety.aspx>.

**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

- Don’t use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement or garage or near a window.
- Don’t run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Don’t burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn’t properly vented.
- Don’t heat your house with a gas oven.
- Seek prompt medical attention by calling 911 or the Kentucky Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, have a headache, chest pain or are feeling nauseous.
- To install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall for daylight savings time. If the detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has carbon monoxide materials available in 17 languages at: <http://www.cdc.gov/co/guidelines.htm>.

**Hypothermia**

- Hypothermia can result when the body’s temperature drops below what is necessary to maintain normal bodily functions. In severe cases or when the body is not warmed properly, death can result.
- To prevent hypothermia, wear appropriate clothing and limit the time you spend outdoors. Layer clothes made of synthetic and wool fabrics, which are best for keeping warm. Remember to wear hats, coats, scarves and gloves.
- Symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, altered speech pattern, abnormally slow rate of breathing, cold pale skin and lethargy. Seek medical attention if you experiences signs of hypothermia. Individuals experiencing these symptoms should call 911 or seek medical attention immediately.

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SPORTS/NEWS

Statewide smoking ban passes Kentucky's Democratic House

By Melissa Patrick  
Kentucky Health News

A statewide smoking ban passed the Democrat-controlled state House Friday for the first time, but its chances appear grim in the Republican-controlled Senate though a clear majority of Kentuckians support the bill.

House Bill 145, which would prohibit smoking in workplaces and indoor places, passed 51-46 after the narrow defeat of two amendments opposed by its advocates and three changes that may have put it over the top. Nine of the 44 Republicans joined 42 of the 56 Democrats to pass it.

Amendments to the bill added exemptions for cigar bars, cigar clubs, tobacco stores, private clubs and market-research facilities; significantly reduced the fine for violation, to \$25 for individuals and \$50 for businesses; and would preserve any weaker or stronger local bans that are in effect when the bill would become law, in late June.

House Speaker Greg Stumbo told Tom Loftus of The Courier-Journal that the latter amendment was key to the bill's passage. Rep. Tanya Pullin, D-Greenup, told the House that it won her vote because it creates a "window of opportunity" for localities to enact their own bans. It was proposed by Democratic Caucus Chair Johnny Bell of Glasgow.

The defeated amendments would have exempted electronic cigarettes and well-ventilated adult establishments prominently displaying a "Smoking Establishment" sign. The e-cig amendment, proposed by Republican Caucus Chair Stan Lee, lost 46-49; the other one, offered by freshman Rep. Jim DuPlessis, R-Elizabethtown, lost 44-45.

"A couple of the amendments

are problematic," Amy Barkley, chair of the Smoke-free Kentucky Coalition, said in a phone interview. "The existing laws in these communities may not protect all workers," she said. "And localities can pass weak laws (before this bill becomes law) and have that forever."

Nevertheless, Barkley said, "This is really a historic moment."

More compromise may be necessary to get the bill through the Senate, where Republican Sen. Julie Raque Adams of Louisville filed a similar bill as the House measure was coming up for a vote.

Senate President Robert Stivers told Bruce Schreiner of The Associated Press, "I am personally not a fan of smoking, but I just don't believe it is the government's role to tell [a business] that you cannot have a facility that smoking takes place in — be it a pool hall a bar or restaurant." He added, "I don't see there being that type of support in the Senate to pass a bill like that."

Barkley disagrees. "There is a lot of support in the Senate," she said.

The sponsor of HB 145, Rep. Susan Westrom, D-Lexington, said "I cannot predict what will happen in the Senate. Stivers has said from the beginning that he wouldn't let it have a hearing."

Barkley said advocates are asking Senate leaders to "let your members have the vote and go on record with their position." The next clue to the leaders' attitude will be where they send the bill. If it doesn't go to the Health and Welfare Committee, which Adams chairs, that would be a bad sign for it.

Westrom repeatedly said that the bill does not ban smoking. "This bill just requests that a

smoker step outside 15 feet," she said. "Fifteen feet is not too far to walk to know that 950 people in this state won't die from secondhand smoke related illness." That is the estimated number of deaths each year in Kentucky from secondhand smoke.

Westrom said afterward that she had hoped for a larger margin than five votes, but "I couldn't be happier. This is a historic moment and there is lots to be proud of," referring to the many people and organizations that committed themselves to the cause.

The Kentucky Health Issues Poll last fall found that 66 percent of Kentucky adults favored the ban. It won 57 percent support in last year's Bluegrass Poll for news organizations.

During the House debate, opponents of the bill spoke mainly of private-property rights and individual liberty.

"I deplore smoking," said Rep. Brian Linder, R-Dry Ridge, "but my love for liberty is greater than my hate, therefore I vote no."

Earlier, Westrom said, "Our freedoms only extend until they begin to affect others."

Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear hailed the House vote as "an extremely important and significant event," adding, "It sends a very strong statement ... that it is time to move in this direction. It is just such a health problem and health issue in the commonwealth; so many of our chronic conditions relate directly back to smoking."

*Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Telecommunications at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.*



PRAYING AFTER THE GAME - Hickman County Falcons gather around center court with the Murray High Tigers after their game Tuesday night, Feb. 10 for a word of prayer. The Tigers won the game 69-45.

Winter stresses on trees and shrubs

Heavy snow and ice, as well as frozen soil conditions, can damage cherished trees and shrubs in residential landscapes. Even areas without major snowfall experience high winds and huge fluctuations in temperatures during winter. But homeowners can lessen the adverse effects of winter weather with preventive maintenance.

Here are some other things TCIA recommends to improve the health of your living landscape:

- Aeration in thawed soil around trees helps improve water and air movement in the soil. This strengthens the tree's root system and reduces soil compaction.
- When planting, choose hardy trees available in your area as they have better chances for survival in severe weather conditions. Choosing the best location and following proper planting procedures should be your highest priorities.
- Stop fertilizing trees in early fall to allow them to prepare for winter.
- In case of moderate storm damage, restoring the tree to its former health and beauty may take some time, but it generally can make a full recovery. Broken, hazardous limbs should be removed immediately. Pruning to remove broken stubs and restore the balance of the crown can be put off a little while, but shouldn't be delayed more than one growing season.

prolonged exposure, watering plants adequately in the fall, and mulching to insulate the soil and roots from severe cold.

On sunny days in winter, the tree's trunk and main limbs can warm to 15 degrees higher than the air temperature. As soon as the sun's rays stop reaching the stem when the sun sets, the tree's temperature plummets, causing injury or permanent damage to the bark. The two common types of injury are sun scald and frost cracking. The effects of sun scald and frost cracking can be reduced by sound arboricultural practices to maintain overall health, and by covering the trunks of young, susceptible trees with a suitable tree wrap.

Winter is a good time to prune

"Most skilled arborists prefer pruning when trees are dormant," says Andersen. "With no leaves on the tree, the arborist is better able to evaluate its architecture and spot dead or diseased branches. In addition, since the ground is frozen, damage to the turf underneath the tree due to falling limbs and tree care activities is negligible. This is also a good time to check trees for diseases and other damage."



SNOW ANGELS - Brothers Zane Barnt (10) and Vance Barnt-Terry (5), enjoyed the snow day Monday. They are shown here making snow angels in the thick, fluffy snow.

MEASURING UP - At right, Em-malyn Richardson (2), daughter of Daniel and Lena Richardson, checks her measuring stick to see how deep the snow is.



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